

The Evening World

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TRANSIT COMMISSION AND I. R. T.

THE Transit Commission is laying the foundation for a "treat 'em rough" policy as regards the I. R. T.

Even the Hylandites must admit that the hearings so far have not been designed to make Interborough stockholders and officials rest easy.

The Transit Commission in drawing an indictment against the Interborough is also building a case against previous Public Service Commissions.

The predecessors of the present commission had broad regulatory powers. If they had proved to be what their names implied—Public Service Commissions—the company would not have been allowed to follow the course of reckless financing the Transit Commission is now exposing.

The I. R. T. has been at fault. So have the commissions. Fair dealing by the company and fair regulation by the State would have insured adequate surplus funds. The State was to blame as well as the company. Now it is the duty of the State to rectify previous mistakes as far as is possible.

Just now the Transit Commission seems to be establishing its moral right to do about anything the law permits as regards the Interborough. It has proved that with conservative management the Interborough treasury could make a present of the lines to the city and still have a handsome profit.

It is establishing in indisputable fashion the obligation of the State regulatory body to do justice to car riders with little or no regard to the interests of the Interborough.

If the Transit Commission doesn't intend to deal fairly with the straphangers, it is pursuing a most peculiar course. Until something to the contrary appears, the commission deserves the confidence of the subway riders.

It deserves more. It has already earned the unstinted co-operation of the Municipal Administration. Mayor Hylan and his aides should stand ready to aid the commission in every way, even while court tests of the commission's power are pending.

One pleasing angle of the Limitations Conference is the thoroughgoing way in which Secretary Hughes seems to have blanketed Senator Lodge.

Mr. Hughes is the voice of the United States for all practical purposes. Senator Lodge is in eclipse. It is true that Senator Underwood and Elihu Root are also out of the limelight, but the country can well afford to cancel two against one, when that one is the narrow-minded, bigoted trouble-maker from Massachusetts.

BUILDING BEYOND NORMAL.

OCTOBER and early November building progress in the metropolitan area is far ahead of normal.

One factor in the building situation is enough to account for this unusual development.

The building figures mean that builders are not taking any chances on what the Legislature may do with the tax exemption legislation. Builders propose to get the full advantage of the offer by getting under way before the present exemption expires.

Tax exemption has proved as effective as the sponsors of the legislation believed it would. There will be little or no opposition to a modified extension of the law which will keep the building business booming until supply overtakes demand and rents get back nearer to normal.

Abrupt withdrawal of all exemption privileges would probably result in an immediate slump. It looks now as though the Legislature would need to taper down with a decreasing scale of exemption extending over a building period of several years.

Tenants and builders are looking to the Lockwood Committee for expert advice on what the law should be.

IT WOULD CLARIFY THE ISSUES.

INJUNCTION proceedings against the employers in the garment trade are a possibility. The Garment Workers' Union is seriously considering such a step.

In the interest of the public, it is to be hoped the step will be taken. It would surely bring out the issues more clearly. It would emphasize the bad faith of the employers in their course of contract-breaking.

That the courts could find ground for a far-reaching injunction is doubtful. The most the union could hope for would be a prohibition of the employment of strike-breakers.

The court could hardly require employers to open shops and give employment to workers now on strike. That would be analogous to a court order requiring individual employees to go back to work, or denying employees the right to quit work

when they desired. This the courts have been unwilling to do.

Injunctions have usually interfered with union organizations, not with individual workers.

In any event, such an action would be interesting and instructive. It would be a novelty.

An A. F. of L. union would not consider such a step. The Federation is conservatively opposed to "government by injunction."

The workers in the garment trades belong to what is known as a "new" union. This "new" unionism is a fact in our industrial life. The more the public can learn of it and its processes the better.

One characteristic has been its willingness to experiment with new ideas—such as an injunction against contract-breaking employers.

WHAT FRANCE CONCEDES.

WHEN Premier Briand pledged yesterday as the contribution of France to the cause of armament reduction the immediate cutting in half of the French period of military service, he did all he could to "play up" the value of the offering.

He dwelt long and sombrely on the fears of France in order to stress her sacrifice.

Why shouldn't he?

In certain quarters of this and other countries it has become the habit to show weariness when France begins to talk of the peril on her eastern frontier.

Since the war there has been a tendency to pooh-pooh French worry about a future Germany as worry over an extinct volcano.

Least of all from Americans is such impatience with the French point of view fair or to be expected.

Within the memory of Frenchmen now living, the soil of France has twice been trampled by German armies. In the space of only fifty years the flower of French manhood has twice faced German guns. In hardly more than one generation Germany has twice cost France billions in money, twice heaped colossal burdens upon French thrift.

Has this country ever suffered what France has suffered at the hands of a next-door neighbor? Have Americans ever known what it is to be born with the dread of a frontier?

Then it behooves Americans to be less intolerant of French alarm, even when that alarm may seem exaggerated.

To say that M. Briand was talking with an eye to present politics in France does not cover the situation. Though factions in France may encourage French fears for party ends, there is no denying that dread of Germany goes deep into certain sections of French life. It is dread born of dire experience.

The way to allay that dread is to treat it not with contempt but with sympathy and reason—not to yawn at it as an "old story," but to meet it with concrete assurances of fact.

Whatever the Washington conference decides to do with the question of land armament, the French cut in military service should be received and measured in the light of French feeling as to the position of France.

It was in all respects fitting that this feeling should be brought before the conference as impressively and eloquently as M. Briand brought it there.

Before France can give up her defense for the sake of final peace in Europe, declares the French Premier:

"We have to know that France is not morally isolated; that she still has with her the men of good will and the heart of all people who have fought with her on the same battlefield."

Proofs that France is not isolated morally or otherwise are bound to be forthcoming in the larger developments of international co-operation to which this Arms Conference is certain to lead.

Nor, when it comes to such proofs, can the United States afford not to be the first to furnish them.

TWICE OVERS.

"IT is this unlawful conspiracy, the New York Milk Conference Board, that permits plaintiffs to maintain their monopoly of milk distribution and exact from citizens 18 cents a quart for the same grade milk which the people of Chicago secure for 12 cents."—Counsel for the striking milk drivers.

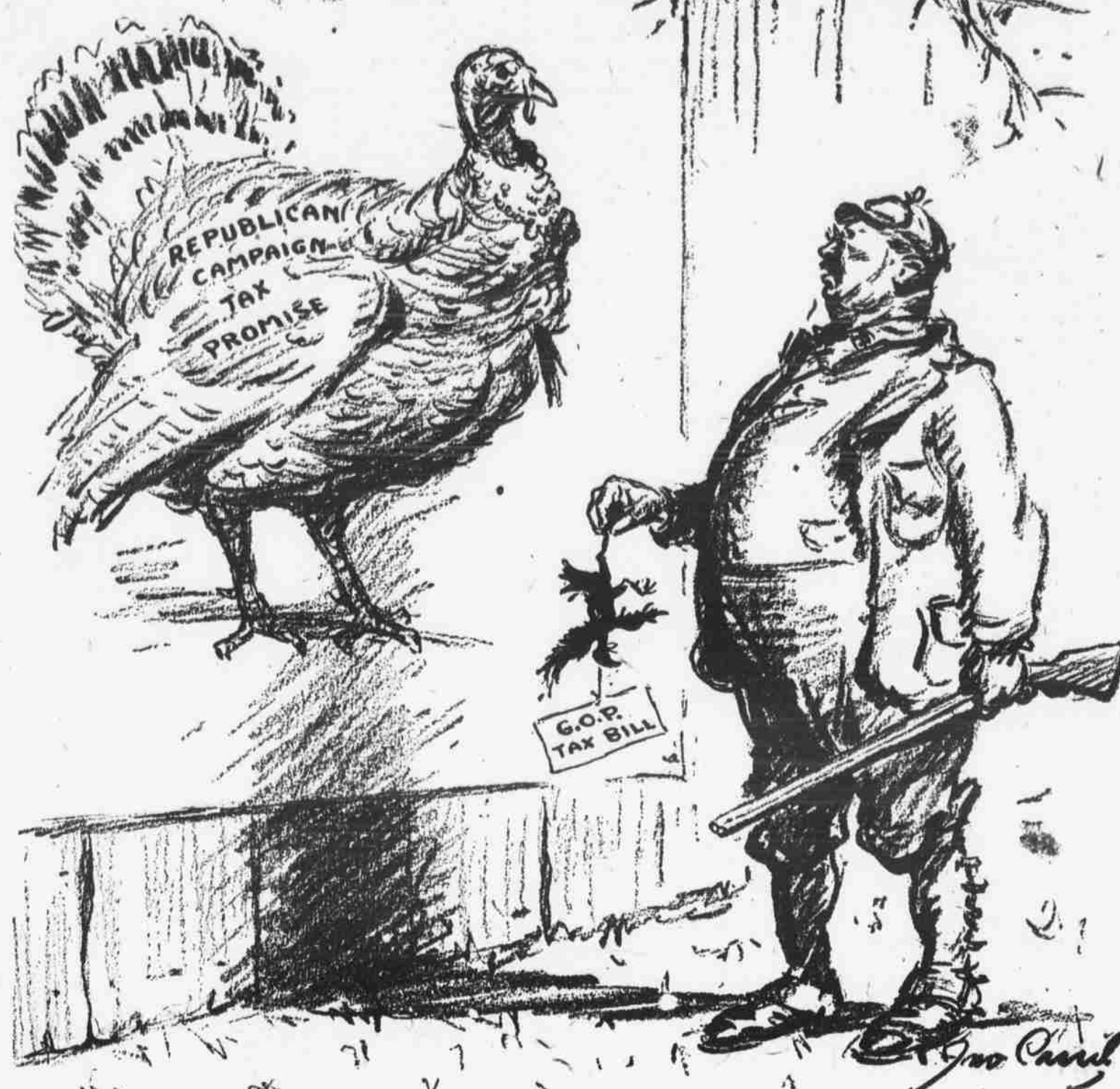
"THE doctrine of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man found a new voice in President Harding when he called the present conference."—The Rev. Dr. Christian F. Reiser.

"CONDITIONS which warranted strict passport control during and immediately following the war have now largely disappeared."—The Merchants' Association.

Thanksgiving?

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By John Cassel



From Evening World Readers

What kind of letter do you find most readable? Isn't it the one that gives the worth of a thousand words in a couple of hundred? There is fine mental exercise and a lot of satisfaction in trying to say much in few words. Take time to be brief.

Disarmament and Hypocrisy.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

The great war was fought to end warfare and to make the world a better place to live in. The end came by general acceptance of President Wilson's fourteen points. One of them demands gradual reducing of armaments. Germany was compelled to abolish conscription and to have only an army not bigger than one-fifth per cent of her population. The army of the United States is built upon about the same proportion. But how about the newly created countries, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Baltic states?

They got their independence as a present from the victorious Allies. It is not unfair to give a gift under conditions. The United States did the same with Cuba. This country, liberated by the United States, is prevented from sliding into militarism. If the Allied Governments really wanted to do something to avoid future wars they could say to the new countries: We give you liberty and independence, but you shall have no conscription and only a limited army. The Allies could even demand that the economic unity of the former Austria be conserved instead of permitting the new countries to disturb the economic balance developed through centuries.

The necessity is not to create still more customs lines and other trade handicaps than there have been, but to diminish them. May the countries be as independent politically as they want, but prevent at least the new powers to be trouble makers even if their sovereignty is not full-fledged.

But the Governments don't want to abolish warfare. They want only to cut down the high cost of killing. And the good people everywhere? They sleep. But when they see somebody with many gold braids on his uniform strutting around them they wake up for a while, holler their throats sore and the movie cameras click overtime. A. SIMPLETON.

New York, Nov. 18, 1921.

Opposed to Birth Control.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

As a constant reader of The Evening World I have been expecting to see in the "People's Forum" a few letters about the ecclesiastical authority that broke up the birth control meeting at the Town Hall recently. Mrs. Sanger was the only one heard from.

The public has mutually expressed its disapproval of her unchristian doctrine. Almighty God decreed, and blessed the decree, that the human race should increase and multiply. He has never revoked that decree and, until He does, it stands.

No man or woman may dare do it. To practice birth control is simply to subvert the designs of the Creator. What do you suppose would have been the fate of Adam and Eve had they attempted such a practice? God would have destroyed them at once. He is very tolerant these times. He is waiting till the "harvest time."

It is quite surprising, therefore, to find present intemperance and the flooding Christianity among the advocates of this pernicious doctrine. I understand it is contrary to the

The Heroes' Mothers.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

The mother of the Unknown Hero may be living here in poverty because the profiteer worked his game while the boy was over there.

JOSEPH McDONALD.

Providence, R. I., Nov. 18.

Not an Issue in This Strike.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

I am a constant reader of your worth-while editorials in The Evening World.

May I take up just a little space in your columns with a question regarding the week's employment of the Garment Makers' strike?

Would you call it Americanism or radicalism to be forced by the laws of the union to keep workers (after one week's employment) forever, although they do not produce desirable work in amount or quality?

MAX PELLENBAUM.

Garulous Landladies.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

I have occupied furnished rooms from Maine to Texas, and the worst pest I find is the garulous landlady who buttonholes you in the hall when you are in a hurry and hangs on like the "old man of the sea." Many an engagement have I lost in that way. Won't you please protest to landladies and ask them to let us alone? I have changed my room oftener on that account than for any other reason, and am about to change again and give up a nice, clean room.

E. R. RACHE.

A Need for Regulation.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Let us suppose the milk companies discharged some of their drivers and instead of having three wagons delivering milk on one block there was only one wagon, who would get the benefit of the resultant lowering of the cost of delivery, the consumer or the company? SIMPLE SIMON.

Brooklyn, Nov. 20.

The Dog in His Home.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

I have been a reader of The Evening World for ten years and I take exception to the letter written by J. E. F. I am sorry for him and for the home that is not big enough for a dog. Many a home is denied the happiness of children where the loyal companionship of a faithful dog means a great deal. I too saw the play that J. E. F. denoted, "How much of these," but I only prove my belief that in modern domestic disturbances it is the people who are to blame and not the poor dog, who cannot tell his side of the story. LUCY H. CAMPBELL.

New York, Nov. 19.

The Voters Elect the Mayor.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

In the early days of journalism the press was suppressed for criticizing the Government, no matter how small the degree of criticism. The Colonial newspapers fought for the freedom of the press, and rightly so, but it is sad to relate that they abused this privilege in the recent campaign, and in a most indecent, scandalous and corrupt manner.

My purpose in writing these few lines is to state that the press ought to take a lesson from the result of the recent election.

I read The Evening World daily and admire your stand on the Prohibition question, so you can see that I am not finding fault with your paper in general. It would be to your advantage, however, to bear this important fact in mind. "That the people of this city and not the press will elect their Mayor." JUSTICE.

New York, Nov. 18, 1921.

UNCOMMON SENSE

By John Blake

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A GRUDGE IS ALWAYS AN OVERLOAD.

A grudge is a responsibility. Responsibilities are always a handicap. Those that naturally fall to you are worth carrying, whether they add to your burdens or not.

The right kind of responsibility is developing. It leads to advancement—eventually.

Therefore it is worth carrying. The man who evades it is not likely to grumble about the income tax, for he will never have to pay any.

But a responsibility which is utterly worthless is merely an overload.

As well might a woodman add to his pack half a dozen heavy stones in the hope that he might have something to throw at an enemy in case he happened to meet one.

If you have a grudge, you spend a little time that you need for other matters in thinking about it.

It keeps you awake at night and makes you unhappy. You are never content until it is satisfied, and its satisfaction brings only a poor and gloomy pleasure.

It is reasonable to expect that many people will do you injuries in the course of your life.

Some of them will be deliberate and engendered by pure malice.

If you start out to "get even" with all these people you will have a good sized job without setting aside any time for earning your living or enjoying existence as you get along.

And you will be just as well off if you don't "get even." Possibly the attainment of success will be all the revenge necessary. Your enemies, if they are real enemies, will not enjoy seeing you prosper.

If you neglect to prosper, merely to feed your grudges against them, you will only contribute to their enjoyments.

You are destined to carry a pretty fair sized pack as you travel, at best. Better not add any grudges to it. They will embitter your life, do no good, and the chances are that you will never be able to satisfy them anyway.

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From the Wise

Selfishness is the only real atheism; aspiration, unselfishness, the only real religion.

—Israel Zangwill.

Laws are like cobwebs, which may catch small flies, but let wasps and hornets break through.

—Swift.

Plenty of folks have a good aim in life, but most of them don't pull the trigger.—Anonymous.

If you wish to astonish the whole world, tell the simple truth.—Rabel.

Human life is more governed by fortune than by reason.—Hume.

He that commits an offense when drunk shall pay for it when he is sober.—Law proverb.

Foreign-Born Builders

—of—America

By Svetozar Tonjoroff

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VII.—JAMES SHIELDS.

Among the millions of Irishmen who have helped to build America with brain or brawn was James Shields. As a leader of the battalions of the Republic in two wars, the immigrant who was born in Dungannon, County Tyrone, in 1810, kept up the tradition which Irishmen established in the Revolution. That tradition was splendidly revived in the super-war that ended on Armistice Day, 1918.

James Shields emigrated to America in 1826, studied law and took up its practice in Kaskaskia, Ill., in 1832. In that State he held many public offices, including that of Judge of the Supreme Court.

Shields was Commissioner of the General Land Office when the war with Mexico caused him to lay aside the pen and take up the sword. Placed in command of the Illinois contingent, Shields fought under Zachary Taylor on the Rio Grande, under Gen. John E. Wool in Chihuahua and finally followed Winfield Scott throughout that General's campaign.

At Cerro Gordo the former Judge of the Supreme Court of Illinois received a Mexican bullet in the lung and a Major Generalship by brevet from Washington.

He recovered rapidly and took part in the operations in the Valley of Mexico, as commander of a brigade made up partly of New York troops. Once more he was severely wounded, this time at Chapultepec.

On his discharge from the army in 1848, he was appointed Governor of the Territory of Oregon, but resigned that post to serve as a Democratic Senator from Illinois.

Thirteen years later, under the stress of the pioneering impulse, he removed to Minnesota and helped to organize its State Government. The new State sent him to Washington as one of its Senators. But the pioneering impulse in 1859 sent Shields further West—to California.

He was Superintendent of a mine in Mexico when the Civil War broke out, and he was appointed a Brigadier General of volunteers. In command of a division of Banks's army he opened the second campaign in the Shenandoah Valley with a victory at Winchester.

He had become so accustomed to wounds that he performed this brilliant feat of arms despite the severe wound which he had suffered on the day before the battle of March 23, 1862.

Defeated by Gen. Thomas J. Jackson at Port Republic in the following June, Major Gen. Shields resigned his commission, settled once more in California and then moved to Missouri, where he returned to the practice of law.

In the State the veteran of two wars, with the scars of three wounds on his body, served as Railroad Commissioner and was a member of the Legislature in 1874 and 1879.

The achievements of the young immigrant from County Tyrone constitute an important and romantic part of the record of the Irish race in the country that has given them hospitality and opportunity.

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT WORD?

104—PIGEON-ENGLISH.

To the Chinese we owe the compound word, "pigeon-English," the childish dialect in use at Chinese ports between natives and American and English traders.

The Chinese use the word pigeon or "pidgin" to supply the place of English nouns unknown to them. Those ingenious Orientals call a concert a "sing-song pidgin" and a conversation a "talkie pidgin."

With the increasing intercourse between the Chinese and English-speaking persons, and with the progress of education, the real English is taking the place of the "pidgin" variety. But "pigeon-English" still survives, especially in fiction and on the stage.

Ten-Minute Studies of New York City Government

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By Willis Brooks Hopkins.

This is the ninety-sixth article of a series defining the duties of the administration and legislative officers and bodies of the New York City Government.

THE JUDICIARY.

Night and Women's Courts.

There are two Night Courts in the city, one at No. 314 West 54th Street, Manhattan, for hearing cases against men; the other, at No. 318 Adams Street, Brooklyn, for women. These courts were established for the purpose of hearing cases against persons arrested too late to be taken to the day courts.

These courts are presided over by City Magistrates assigned to them by the Chief City Magistrate. Only cases of misdemeanors are heard here, persons charged with felonies being held for Grand Jury action.

The punishments inflicted by the Women's Night Court vary according to the nature of the offense and the number of times the offender has been before the court. A first offense may receive only advice or a reprimand. For a second offense women may be placed on probation, committed to a religious institution or receive home for a period not exceeding three years or may be sent to the workhouse.

There is also a Women's Day Court at No. 125 Sixth Avenue, Manhattan, presided over by a woman magistrate, Jean H. Morris.